

Madam Speaker:

Our communities and nation have a responsibility to be good stewards of our water resources. That is why I introduced H.R. 1120, the Central Texas Water Recycling Act of 2009 under consideration today.

This bill will authorize approximately \$8 million in federal funds to help build an innovative water recycling program in partnership with my hometown of Waco, Texas and several neighboring communities. It supports efforts to manage water resources efficiently in McLennan County by strategically locating regional satellite treatment plants that will not only provide for conservation of our community's water supply but will also reduce cost to the taxpayers.

The initial projects under this legislation can provide up to 10 million gallons per day of reuse water; thereby, reducing the water demand on Lake Waco. Instead of wasting valuable drinking water for use in factories and on golf courses, we will be able to use lower cost recycled wastewater for those purposes and save enough drinking water for over 20,000 households.

The bottom line is this. By being good stewards of our water supply, we will reduce water costs for businesses, save Central Texas taxpayers millions of dollars, and encourage economic growth in our area.

I want to thank Chairman Rahall and Ranking Member Hastings for their support of this measure and the Subcommittee Chairwomen, Mrs. Napolitano, and the Ranking Subcommittee Member, Mrs. Cathy McMorris Rodgers for their key role in this bill's passage. This legislation has passed the House twice before and when it becomes law, is the kind of bipartisan effort that shows what Congress can do when we work together on a bipartisan basis.

I want to thank the mayors, city council and staff from the cities of Waco, Lorena, Robinson, Hewitt, Woodway, Bellmead and Lacy-Lakeview for their cooperative efforts that brought us here today.

Finally, I want to extend special credit to Waco's City Manager, Larry Groth, for his extraordinary leadership on this bill. Without his leadership, hard work and professionalism, we would not be here today, and as a citizen of Waco, I am grateful for his outstanding service to my hometown.